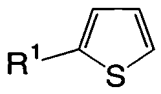
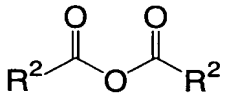
CLAIMS

1. A process for producing a 2-acylthiophene compound comprising reacting a thiophene compound represented by formula (1):



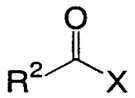
(1)

wherein R^1 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a phenyl group, or a halogen atom, with at least one member selected from the group consisting of acid anhydrides represented by formula (2):



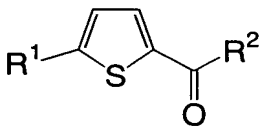
(2)

wherein R^2 is a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a phenyl group, and acid halides represented by formula (3):



(3)

wherein R^2 is as defined above and X is a halogen atom, in the presence of a solid acid catalyst at a temperature less than 75°C in the absence of solvent, thus producing a 2-acylthiophene compound represented by formula (4):



(4)

wherein R^1 and R^2 are as defined above.

2. The process according to claim 1 wherein the solid acid catalyst is at least one member selected from the group consisting of zeolites, activated clays, and cation exchange resins.

3. The process according to claim 1 wherein the solid

acid catalyst is used in an amount of 0.1 to 50 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the thiophene compound.